

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 02275 281501Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FDRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 IGA-02

SSO-00 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2443

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 2275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO

SUBJ: US EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

REF: STATE 066982

1. SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' SPOKESMAN FOR ROMANIAN NATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE SAID INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL DYNJIICS (IED) INITIATED CONTACT WITH MFA VIA TELEX ADDRESSED TO FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US, CORNELIU BOGDAN. MFA DID NOT REPEAT NOT APPROACH IED. LENGTHY IED TELEX LISTING FIRM'S TECHNICAL CAPACITIES NOW UNDER EVALUATION BY MFA ALTHOUGH NOT YET ANSWERED. NO OTHER CONTACTS OR COMMITMENTS OF THIS NATURE MADE BY GOR WITH US FIRMS. END SUMMARY.

2 MFA RECOGNIZES POTENTIAL FOR OVERLAPPING OR REDUNDANT ASSISTANCE OFFERS BUT DOUBTS ANY SERIOUS CONFUSION WOULD DEVELOP IN BUCHAREST ON RECEIVING END OVER DISTINCTION BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND OFFICIAL USG PROPOSALS. WE WOULD ADD SELF-EVIDENT POINT THAT, KNOWING POSSIBILITY OF GRANT AID, ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ASSUREDLY NOT CONTRACT FOR IDENTICAL SERVICES ON COMMERCIAL BASIS.

3. WE SEPARATELY INFORMED DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MARGARITESCU ON SATURDAY THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN

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PAGE 02 BUCHAR 02275 281501Z

EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING WAS ONE TYPE OF POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL AID THAT WE ARE NOW EVALUATING. IN VIEW OF THAT EVALUATION WE SUGGESTED THAT GOR MIGHT WISH TO CHECK WITH US BEFORE PROCEEDING IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH IED. AS STATED ABOVE, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT MARGARITESCU RECOGNIZED UTILITY OF WAITING TO SEE WHETHER USG MIGHT OFFER AID IN THIS AREA.

4. WE INFER, FROM DEPARTMENT'S APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH IED, THAT THERE ARE SOME WASHINGTON RESERVATIONS ABOUT FIRM. IF THESE RESERVATIONS EXTEND BEYOND CONVICTION THAT IED WOULD OFFER ONLY RECRUITMENT AND COORDINATION THAT USG CAN ITSELF PROVIDE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED WHAT THEY ARE.

5. ON IED'S WORK FOR SOVIETS (PARA 2 REFTEL) WE HAVE NO FACTUAL CHECK BUT CONSIDER IT HIGHLY CONJECTURAL THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD RECOMMEND SUCH A US FIRM TO ROMANIA UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. ALSO, WHILE PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION AND FRICTION EXIST BETWEEN VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS IN ROMANIAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, LIKELIHOOD THAT SOME BRANCH OF GOR WOULD TRY AN END RUN IN PUTTING TOGETHER ITS OWN TEAM OF AMERICAN SPECIALISTS IS ALMOST ZERO.

6. TO SERVE INTERESTS OF IMPROVED COORDINATION, WE ARE SENDING MFA WRITTEN REQUEST THAT AID/OFDA (BEAUCHAMP/GUTH) SHOULD BE INFORMED THROUGH EMBASSY OF GOR APPROACHES FOR US GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: NEXT STEP IN US EFFORT WOULD BE FOR EMBASSY TO RECEIVE MORE DETAILED FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM AID ALONG LINES REFTEL PARA 1 FOR DELIVERY TO MFA WITHIN NEXT DAY OR SO. PROPOSAL SHOULD SPECIFY SIZE OF US TEAM, DURATION OF AVAILABILITY, AND KINDS OF PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, OR MATERIAL SUPPORT CAPACITIES. IN PARALLEL WE HAVE ASKED ROMANIANS TO CONVEY THEIR OWN STAFFING IDEAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 02275 281501Z

(REFTEL PARA 3) AND THE NATURE OF REQUIREMENTS AT PRINCIPAL SITES WHERE PROPOSED US TEAM MIGHT WORK. ANSWER PROMISED WITHIN FEW DAYS. SINCE PREVIOUS USAID TEAM UNDER DR. CULVER IS WELL AWARE OF LOCAL DAMAGE AND RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, WE DOUBT ROMANIAN INPUT WOULD CONFLICT IN SUBSTANCE WITH USG'S INTENTIONS, AND SO BELIEVE USAID'S OWN PROVUSAL SHOULD NOT BE HELD UP.
BARNES

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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